

April 4, 2023

Montgomery County Council
Council Office Building
100 Maryland Avenue, 6th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Councilmembers:

I am the parent of a young adult with IDD who lives at Main Street since 2020. It has been a wonderful experience for him. He participates in the many program that are offer. Living independently has boosted his self-confidence and relieved our concerns about where he will live once we are no longer around.

Support for NDA Community Grants

I support the County Executive's proposed FY24 budget for **Non-Departmental Accounts (NDA) Community Grants**. While funding levels-increased for the Underserved Communities Project grants and for the Nonprofit Technical Assistance and Management Support grants, the requests from nonprofits far exceed the amounts funded.

I would ask that the Council not make any changes to the above provisions of the County Executive's proposed budget unless it were to make further increases.

Request for Additional Inflationary Increase

While the 3% inflationary increase is good more is needed. Community grants, contracts in departmental base budgets and multi-year contracts should increase to match the CPI over the past year.

Support for Funding for Affordable Housing

This housing is hard to come by. When we first applied there were about 1000 people all vying for the dozen apartments available for IDD individuals. I hope the Council will prioritize multiple types of funding that support more affordable housing initiatives, including workforce housing.

Conclusion

Thank you for your commitment to the County's most vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, and thank you for your ongoing support of nonprofits like Main Street that are developing innovative solutions to the challenges faced by these groups. I respectfully request your consideration of the above requests so that nonprofits like Main Street can bring hope, opportunity and dignity to many more of the County's underserved residents.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Jones
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